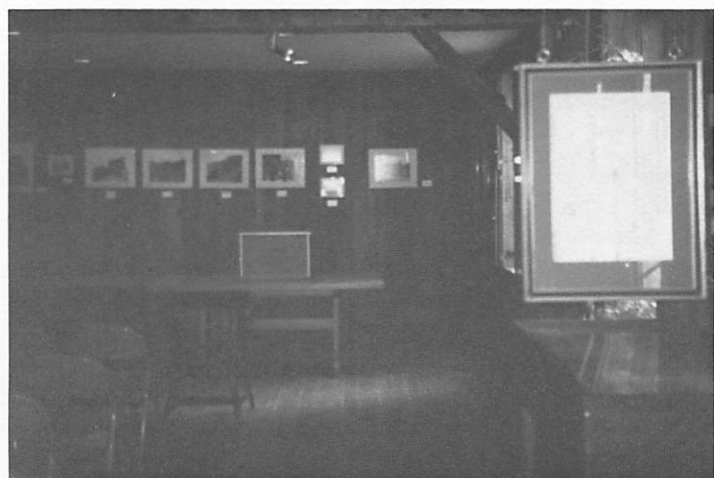


The Bethel Courier.

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SUMMER 1995

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



The summer exhibit, *China: Exploring the Interior, 1903-04*, was based on photos taken by Maine native R. Harvey Sargent during a Carnegie Institute expedition to the remote interior of China in the early years of the 20th century. It was co-produced by Volunteers for Geography Awareness and by the Chinese Room of the Newport (R.I.) Public Library with generous support from the Maine Humanities Council. The exhibit's presence in Bethel was made possible in part with the support of the Society's Hall Memorial Fund to honor Bethel-born martyr Annie Gould.



Annie Gould. Photo, gift of Roxanne Twitchell Sly.



Members of the Gould family gathered at Bethel's Riverside Cemetery on the Gould lot to honor Annie Gould, who was executed by the Boxers in 1900.



Robert Sargent (left), grandson of the photographer R. Harvey Sargent, stands beside the marble tablet, erected in honor of Annie Gould at Seaman's Bethel Church in Portland, with Craig Dietrich, Professor of Chinese History at the University of Southern Maine. The tablet was presented to the Society by a descendant of Annie Gould's father, Susan Gould Henessey of Kennebunk. After the church's destruction in the 1950s, members of the family rescued the tablet, which is now a treasured possession of the Bethel Historical Society thanks to the generosity of Mrs. Henessey.



Nell and Carroll Valentine. Photo courtesy of Mary Valentine.

MEMBER PROFILES

Born in Bethel, 12 April 1894, Carroll E. Valentine was the son of Charles E. and Bertha Grover Valentine. He attended local schools, graduating from Gould Academy in 1913. Following his education at Dartmouth College, he served in the signal corps during World War I. An electrical engineer, he worked for Westinghouse from 1923 until his retirement in 1958. During this time, he helped to design electrical equipment for the first atomic submarine. In 1952, he received the Westinghouse Award of Merit for pioneering work on voltage regulators. Following his retirement, he moved from Pittsburgh, PA to Bethel, where he was active in the Congregational Church and served as president of the United Church of Christ Conference and the Bethel Chamber of Commerce. He also worked as a volunteer for the Boy Scouts. In 1971, he was honored by the Bethel Chamber of Commerce with the Senior Citizen Award. He married Nell Whitmore in 1923 and they were the parents of two children, Mary and Richard. He died 19 July 1979.

Nell Valentine was born in Northeast Harbor on 14 October 1888, the daughter of Joseph and Lora Manchester Whitmore. She attended local schools and graduated from Higgins Classical Institute and Gorham Normal School. She went on for further education at Simmons College. She taught at Mount Desert Island, New Bedford, MA, Gould Academy, and Hillsdale College, where she was Dean of Women, before her marriage. Following the move to Bethel, she was active in the Congregational Church and taught quilting classes in Bethel, South Paris and Rumford. She died 25 September 1982.

Charter members of the Bethel Historical Society, Carroll and Nell Valentine were among its most dedicated members. They were also incorporators of the organization as well. Nell served as a trustee from 1970-72. When the society moved into the Dr. Moses Mason House in 1974, they were very active in helping to set up the museum and worked in a number of volunteer capacities for several years. Nell made the quilt that graces the bed in the niece's room and hand stitched all the bedding used in the museum. She assisted in craft demonstrations on numerous occasions and helped with quilting demonstrations for school groups. The Valentines were also generous donors or artifacts to the Society.

REFLECTIONS OF A HALF CENTURY

(Continued from the last issue)

by L. E. Davis

Now a little more about our family affairs.

Phyllis graduated from Gould in the class of 1936, too a year post-graduate and three years at Deaconess Hospital in Boston which brings her up to 1940. After graduation she did some private duty nursing around Bethel and worked for one or two years as the school nurse at Gould Academy. While working as the school nurse, the Bingham Associates sent her to Boston for additional training in x-ray work. Dr. Lawrence was the Gould school physician during that period and Dr. G.B. Farnsworth was Bingham's personal physician and President of the Gould Academy Trustees. It was during the winter of 1942 that my father had the misfortune of over working his heart and had to stay in bed from January until early April when he died.

He and Bob were harvesting ice and father, in the process of sawing ice and lifting it out of the water, overdid and worked his heart beyond his strength at his age of 79. He lived until the first week in April but could not seem to get back his strength and during the last two weeks Phyllis got leave from her job at Gould's and took care of him.

My father spent his whole lifetime doing something useful, one of the greatest workers I ever knew. He loved to work and get things accomplished. A good man and I was proud to have had him as my father.

During the summer of 1942 Phyllis wanted to try some other kind of work than nursing so she finished her job as school nurse and went to Boston and worked in the office of an educational film supply company. I think she may have worked in the x-ray laboratory of the Lahey Clinic for a while but I am not sure. [Phyllis Davis Dock notes that she worked as Assistant Head Nurse at the Boston Psychopathic Hospital and then Vesco.]

I know that in December of 1943 Marie and I were on our way to Florida for a winter vacation and stopped in Boston to see her, and she came to Florida with us. This was during World War II and travel was restricted so that I bought a second hand Plymouth coupe for \$350 for this trip as I was not sure that I would be allowed to drive it home.

Speed was restricted to 35 miles per hour to conserve gasoline. With the three of us in a 1939 Plymouth coupe and all our luggage it was a pretty heavy load and we took about seven days on the trip down. Phyllis stayed about a week in St. Petersburg, FL with us at El Royal Motor Court on 4th Street North at 23rd Ave., then went back to Boston by train. In the spring or summer of 1944 she enlisted in the Navy and from there to St. Albans Naval Hospital on Long Island, NY. It was while stationed at St. Albans that she met Norman Dock who was a patient there. They were married in January of 1945 and went to Woodstock, NY to live, which was where Norman had lived with his mother and sister before going into the Seabees division of the armed services.

I left Richard and Rita living on their houseboat in 1936 or 1940 a few pages back so I had better bring them up to date.

Marie and I had given them a house lot on the road toward Bethel village next to our southerly line and while

they were living on the houseboat they got the foundation in and the body of the house up and closed in. They got the kitchen, bathroom and one bedroom partly finished so that they were able to move in by the late fall of 1941 I believe.

It was a good time to build as I remember what the complete set of bathroom fixtures cost for their house. The complete outfit, built in cast iron tub with shower attachment, lavatory, and toilet of the best grade with Kohler replaceable seat, faucets, and drains, cost at wholesale just \$96.60 and no sales tax. Another item that I remember was windows. We were running the retail building supply business at the time and were selling windows and frames complete with the frame set up for \$5 and \$5.50 per window in the usual sizes, and interior fir doors in the two panel style were \$3 each, dimension lumber was \$24 or \$25 per thousand dressed four sides and delivered on the job. Richard spend most of his spare time and probably some that wasn't spare time for the next three or four years getting their house finished inside as well as completing the grounds outside.

Leslie Lee (Penny) Davis, our first grandchild, was born on April 15, 1942. Peter Seth was the next grandchild and was born October 8, 1944.

After Kathryn completed her study and secretarial training at Westbrook Junior College in the spring of 1941 she worked in the office of Ernst and Ernst in Portland until the late summer of 1942 at which she took the job of secretary to the principal at Gould Academy in Bethel and lived at home with us. It was while on this job that she did the research work and got together the material for the first issue of the Gould Alumnus which was published in September 1944. She stayed on the job until she and Charles Hamlin were married on February 16, 1944 and he got assigned to shore duty at Norfolk, VA in 1944. While in Norfolk they lived in an apartment off the Naval Base and she worked in the office of Travelers U.S.O. of the Norfolk and Southern Railroad.

After Charles finished his tour of duty with the Navy he went back to Bates College in Lewiston for his senior year and graduated in 1946. He and Kathryn lived in an apartment in Lewiston during that year and Kathryn worked as a secretary in the office at the college. After graduation from Bates, Charles and Kathryn came to Bethel and lived with us during that summer and he worked at odd jobs in our lumber business until he entered Harvard College in the fall of 1946. During his year at Harvard, they lived in an apartment in Brighton and Kathryn worked as secretary to one of the professors who was doing research work in the field of aerodynamics.

Charles graduated from Harvard in 1947 and they came back to Bethel again and lived with us for a while. He worked for Herb Swan all that summer as a carpenter's helper, and that was the year that Herb Swan and Bill Ward built the two room addition to the Bethel Primary School.

Although most of Charles' study while at Bates and Harvard was in preparation for teaching, he felt that business rather than the teaching profession offered better opportunity, so in the fall of 1947 he took a job which was open at the Bethel store of the Atlantic and Pacific Tea Co. as a clerk at \$35 per week. He has since worked up through the ranks at the A. & P. and went to Portland in 1950 to work in the Personnel Dept. of the A. & P. District office there and in this year of 1958 he is still working in the

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

"The quality of the future depends upon what is remembered and kept from the past."

This statement is important as we begin observing the 30th anniversary of the Society's existence. This issue's member profile of two remarkable charter members of the Society underlines the dedication and foresight that resulted in the success of the organization we enjoy today.

The challenges faced by Eva Bean, the Valentines, and others undoubtedly seemed formidable at the time. Now we face similar challenges as the success of the Society brings new roles and responsibilities as well as space needs to provide more access and services to our members, community, and visitors. The next few years will see us working to meet these challenges and I hope everyone reading this will play some role in that process.

Charles F. Raymond

Portland office of the A. & P. Tea Co., but now in the Sales Dept.

Charles and Kathryn lived with Marie and I at our house on the Middle Intervale road from the time he graduated from Harvard in 1947 until the spring or summer of 1948, and Richard Davis Hamlin was born in November of 1947.

Marie and I came to Florida in December of 1947 and stayed until the following March at Mrs. Benfield's at 401 - 3rd St. South in St. Petersburg.

Kathryn, Charles and "Dicky" moved into the west 3rd floor apartment of our Grange Hall apartment building on Spring St. in Bethel in July of 1948 and lived there until Charles was promoted to the Portland A. & P. office at which time they moved to Park Apts. This was during the summer of 1950. As they were going to be needing more room sometime that year they bought a new house on Just-A-Mere Road in Falmouth Foreside and moved into it in the month of September. Jeffrey Conrad Hamlin was born on October 22, 1950.

(to be continued in the next issue)

BOOK REVIEW

"A Fair Field and No Favor": A Concise History of the Maine State Grange. By Stanley Russell Howe (Augusta: Maine State Grange, 1994). 130pp. Cloth. \$20.

The *Oxford Democrat* of 6 September 1887 records that the Grange was organized for the farmer "not to build up agriculture at the expense of any other class, but...[to] give the farmer an equal chance at all things, 'A fair field and no favor.'" With this in mind, there is much to enjoy in this remarkably readable book which details the history of the Maine State Grange from its earliest days in the 1870s to the present. The author, Society Director Stanley R. Howe, a fifth generation Granger, is well qualified to relate the history of this farm fraternity.

(Continued on page 4)

SOCIETY SALES DEPARTMENT

The Society maintains a selection of modestly priced gifts and historical publications. These may be ordered at the prices listed below. Maine residents should include 6% sales tax. Orders under \$10 should include \$1 for postage and handling; those over \$10 but under \$20 should include \$2 and all those over \$20 should include \$3 for postage and handling.

Moses Mason House Tile	\$3.50
Stationery (package of ten sheets and ten envelopes)	\$2 ea.
Moses Mason House	Bethel Railroad Station
Summer House	Bethel Covered Bridge
Booklets	
"The Family Farm"	75¢
"Made in Bethel"	75¢
"Dr. Moses Mason and His House"	\$1
"Molly Ockett"	\$2
1995 New England Calendars (Barns or Covered Bridges)	\$9.95
Maps and Atlases	
1880 Map of Bethel Hill	\$2
1880 Map of Entire Town (Bethel)	\$2
1878 Bird's Eye View of Bethel Hill	\$1
1858 Atlas of Oxford County	\$7.50
Tote Bag (Moses Mason Museum logo)	sm. \$7.50 lg. \$11.50
Placemats, 4 Season (set of four)	\$7.50
Books	
Carrie Wight, A HISTORY OF NEWRY	\$5
Hutchinson, THE RUMFORD FALLS & RANGELEY LAKES RAILROAD	\$20
BETHEL, MAINE CEMETERIES	\$9.50
Russell, INDIAN NEW ENGLAND BEFORE THE MAYFLOWER	\$15.95
N.F. Little, AMERICAN DECORATIVE WALL PAINTING 1700-1850	\$9.95
R. Crosby, FROM AN OLD LEATHER TRUNK	\$5
W.B. Lapham, HISTORY OF WOODSTOCK, MAINE	\$19.95
MAINE: THE PINE TREE STATE FROM PREHISTORY TO THE PRESENT	\$29.95
Bennett, THE WHITE MOUNTAINS	\$14.99
D.B. Wight, WILD RIVER WILDERNESS	\$4
Francis Parkman, THE GOULD ACADEMY STORY	\$7.50
MAINE IN THE EARLY REPUBLIC	\$29.95
Thomas Hubka, BIG HOUSE, LITTLE HOUSE, BACK HOUSE BARN: THE CONNECTED FARM BUILDINGS OF NEW ENGLAND	Paper \$22.95. Cloth \$35
Bennett, BETHEL, MAINE: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY	\$39.95
M.F. King, ANNALS OF OXFORD	\$48
R. Crosby, I WAS A SUMMER BOARDER	\$5
Howe, MAINE GRANGE HISTORY	\$19.95
Paula Wight, NEWRY PROFILES	\$5
Eva Bean, EAST BETHEL ROAD	\$50
R.H. Bennett, OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE	\$18
William B. Lapham, HISTORY OF BETHEL, 1768-1890	\$45
Barnes, MAINE LIFE: THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF NETTIE MAXIM CUMMINGS	\$16.99
GENEALOGY OF THE SAMUEL & FRANCES (PEMBROKE) MILLS FAMILY	\$5
T-Shirts	
Moses Mason Museum (Adult) (S,M,L,XL)	\$8
Moses Mason Museum (Child's) (4-6-8-10-12-14)	\$7
Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Adult) (S,M,L,XL)	\$8
Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Child's) (4-6-8-10-12-14)	\$7
Post Cards: Dr. Mason, Agnes Mason, Moses Mason House	10¢ ea.

Members of the Bethel Historical Society are entitled to a 10% discount for purchases totaling \$10 or more. Please send orders to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217. They will be sent by return mail. If you have questions, please call toll free: 1-800-824-2910.

(Book Review, continued from page 3)

In this book, Howe fascinates as he explores the reasons the fraternal order was created and its subsequent success in Maine. The State became one of the largest Grange states in the Union, and in the process exerted a significant influence upon rural Mainers. Its power was felt in politics, economics, and the social life of large numbers of residents of the Pine Tree State.

Howe discusses all of this in some detail and this story is greatly enhanced by an ample number of illustrations and historical photographs documenting Grange activities from the late 19th century to the 1990s.

This book is made even more useful by the presence of numerous appendices listing Granges, State Officers, state convention sites, etc.

For anyone interested in agricultural and social history or who wants to know more about an organization that has touched so many lives throughout the State, this book is must reading.

Jane Hosterman
Pleasant Valley Grange #136
West Bethel

THE BETHEL SOLDIERS OF '61

(continued from the last issue)

From the pages of the Oxford Advertiser, May 21, 1886, compiled by Judge C.F. Whitman of Norway.

The Bethel Company of the Fifth Maine remained in winter quarters at Camp Franklin till the early spring of '62, when the Army of the Potomac made a general onward movement. The people of the north had begun to show evident signs of disapproval at the long inactivity.

"Why don't the Army move?" was a query heard on every hand. "On to Richmond" had produced disaster which served to hold within reasonable bounds the demand of the loyal people for a general advance upon the enemy. The Army however felt the growing pressure from behind and was anxious to be on the move. During the period of its inactivity, the first body of soldiers ever mustered on the continent was organized under the leadership of General Geo. B. McClellan, then as ever afterward, the most beloved commander of the old Potomac Army. This onward movement came to naught on account of the Virginia mud, a severe storm having taken place. The army moved as far as Catlett's Station, Va., and finding that the Rebels now under Gen. Joe Johnston had fallen back over the Rapidan, it returned over the route of its advance, which had become a perfect mud pond, to its old camping ground. The route to Richmond by way of Manassas was not a favorite one with Gen. McClellan though heartily approved by President Lincoln and his sec. of war, Edwin M. Stanton. The commanding General preferred a new route by way of the peninsula. The president opposed it for the reason that it would be necessary to leave behind a large body of troops for the protection of Washington. The controversy over the route to be taken, although Gen. McClellan's plan was finally acceded to, left in the mind of the president a lack of full confidence in the commanding general which ultimately led to his being relieved and Gen. A.E. Burnside appointed in his place.



Sally Taylor (left) of the Society's Preservation Committee presents the 1995 Bethel Historical Society Preservation Award to Patricia Thurston for her work on Philbrook Place.

(Bethel Soldiers, continued from page 4)

Gen. McClellan's advance began about the middle of April and the army was quickly transferred from the vicinity of Alexandria to the peninsula. The Fifth Maine Regt. was transported in the steamer John Brooks to the York River. The steamer is the identical one with the same name plying between Portland and Boston. While here several officers of the Regt. got an opportunity to visit Fortress Monroe and see the "Yankee cheese-box on a raft," the famous iron clad steam vessel Monitor, which had already had its fight with the Merrimac and beaten it.

The fleet of Union war vessels, tenders and transports, which were numbered by thousands, at that time in and around the mouth of the river, was a feature of army occurrences long to be remembered, it being one of the finest sights the soldiers had ever seen.

Anchor was weighed on the 5th of May and the John Brooks steamed up the river to Yorktown, which had been evacuated by the Rebels. While on their way they heard the boom of the guns at Williamsburg where our forces under Gen. Joe Hooker won an important battle. The Regt. went on shore and its officers and men had an opportunity to view the works constructed by Washington and Cornwallis in the days of the Revolution. They were more interested in these than in the more recent works of the confederates. The next day they proceeded further up the river to West Point, where on the 7th of May they had an engagement with the Rebels. During the night of the 6th a detail from their brigade performed picket duty and frequent skirmishing took place before daylight. At four o'clock in the morning, our troops were formed in line of battle. Their position was an excellent one, being in an open field with the York and Pamunkey rivers on their flanks. Our forces comprised a part of Gen. Franklin's division while the Rebels had a far greater force than our troops imagined, of which there were Texas troops under Gen. Whiting and Wade Hampton's South Carolina Legion.

At eight o'clock sharp musketry firing was heard in our immediate front and the Union troops were directed to

advance. They were met by the skirmishers who were being pushed out of the woods on the double quick. The advance of the Fifth Maine was magnificent, the movement being performed as coolly as if the men were on dress parade. Soon the fight became sharp and severe. Twice our forces endeavored to carry the enemy's position but without success. By this time our batteries with the aid of the gunboats had been brought into position and a Rebel battery from an elevated clearing in the woods, which had assisted in stopping our advance, was soon silenced. Our infantry now pushed once more into the woods and put the enemy to flight. The Union loss in this engagement was about 200 in killed, wounded and missing. The loss of the enemy was not known but supposed to be less as he fought under cover of the woods. There were no casualties in the Bethel Company and only about half a dozen in the whole regt. *(continued in the next issue)*



Gould Family, 1870s, (L to R) John Mead Gould, Theodore, Annie, Amelia Twitchell Gould, Oliver. Photo, gift of Roxanne Twitchell Sly.

RICHARDSON LAKES BOOK STILL AVAILABLE AT PRE-PUBLICATION RATES

The Society's publication *The Richardson Lakes: Jewels in the Rangeley Chain* by Herbert P. Shirrefs and edited by Society Curator of Collections Randall H. Bennett can still be ordered at special pre-publication rates until the book's appearance in the near future. Those wishing to order this book with over 500 pages and 300 photos, maps, and illustrations should do so right away since the final proofing and design process are nearly done prior to printing and binding. Until the book is published, orders will still be processed at the \$29.95 for hard cover editions and \$23.95 for soft cover. After publication, the price will be \$39.95 and \$29.95 respectively. Please add Maine sales tax (6%) if applicable and shipping \$3 per book, plus \$1 for each additional copy. Mail to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217-0012.

IN MEMORIAM

Died, July 3, 1995, Anne Hackwell, life member since 1989.
Died, July 29, 1995, Dorothy Shirley, contributing member since 1984.

NEW LIFE MEMBER

Dorothy Clark Wilson, Orono



One of the highlights of the summer was the Mills family reunion, which attracted nearly one hundred to the Dr. Moses Mason House in July. Pictured above is the family of Zenas and Mary Barker Mills at their 50th anniversary celebration in Albany in 1938: (left to right) Ervin Z., Amy E., O'Neal F., Mary B., Zenas W., Vern E., Raymond B., Clayton A., and Edward L. Mills. Only Edward L. Mills, the last surviving member of this family photo, was present at this reunion, but many of the descendants of the above were present. Photo courtesy of Blaine Mills.



Members of the Mills Family gather on the lawn of the Dr. Moses Mason House during the reunion held in July.



Society life member Stephen T. Seames (left) discusses the Greenwood cattle pound during the annual picnic meeting in July which featured a tour of sites in this adjoining town.

EDITOR'S CORNER

The connection of the global and the local has been firmly established with this summer's exhibit of photos of China in 1903-04, very nearly the same period that Bethel-born missionary Annie Gould was seeing some of the same countryside before her execution by the Boxers in 1900. One of my goals as Executive Director of the Society is always to look for the wider significance, making certain that programs and exhibits relate somehow to the regional, national, and sometimes international. It is a delicate balancing act to accomplish with budgets, logistics, and timing to be considered as well. The response to the exhibit and the reception was excellent. It has been an education for many of us to learn Annie Gould's intriguing story and the exhibit helped to place that story in the context of her times.

SRH



Dr. Emerson Baker of Salem State College (center) poses with Society life members Persis Post (left) and Dr. Charles Smith (right). Dr. Baker gave the 1995 Hall Memorial Lecture during the annual Sudbury Canada Days, speaking on the Indians of the Saco River Valley and Western Maine.

1995 ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

Chairman Howard Cole is once more urging members and friends to contribute to its 1995 Annual Fund drive to support operational expenses. The annual fund assists the Society in balancing its budget each year to supplement income from sales, admissions, dues, grants, donations, and endowment. Those who haven't yet made a tax deductible contribution can still do so before the end of the year in honor of or in memory of some special person if desired by sending donations to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217-0012.

NOW AVAILABLE

MAINE LIFE AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY
THROUGH THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF NETTIE CUM-
MINGS MAXIM by Diane and Jack Barnes \$16.99

See Society Sales Department, page 4
for ordering information.



The musical group *The Old Grey Goose* (left) plays for the contra dance held during this summer's *Sudbury Canada Days*. Their appearance in Bethel was made possible in part with support from the *Maine Arts Commission* and the *Society's Hall Memorial Fund*.

OBITUARY OF WILLIAM B. LAPHAM

From the *Register-Journal*, Gardiner, Maine, 22 February 1894, courtesy of Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr.

Dr. William B. Lapham died this forenoon at 9:30 o'clock at the National Home, Togus.

Dr. William B. Lapham was born in Greenwood, Oxford County, Maine (where his parents were temporarily residing) August 28, 1828. When he was only a few weeks old his family moved to Bethel, which was their home. After he was ten years old, he worked out by the day or the month, or year on various farms during the remainder of his minority.

After becoming of age, he fitted for college at Gould's Academy in Bethel, and entered Colby University [now College] in 1851. He did not remain to graduate, but received the complimentary degree Master of Arts from

the college in 1874. He read medicine with Dr. [Almon] Twitchell of Bethel, attended the Maine Medical school, and finished his course in New York in 1856, commencing the practice of medicine at Bryant's Pond the same year. In 1861-62, he was in Augusta, assisting in the hospital as Assistant Surgeon. In 1862, he enlisted as a private in the 23rd Maine Regiment, and soon was promoted to 1st Lieut.

After his regiment was mustered out, he recruited for the 7th Maine Battery, in which he served to the end of the war. He had the command of the Artillery at Fort Sedgwick, colloquially known as *Fort Hell* and as this fort was really under fire of the enemy all the time, life there was no picnic. He was mustered out as Brevet Major. He never referred to his military rank in any way. One might have supposed that he served as a surgeon alone, while the fact was that he never served as a surgeon, except on occasions when his services were needed in a friendly manner, and without pay. He enlisted in the ranks from a sense of duty, as he believed it was everyone's duty to sacrifice his life and all he had if necessary in his country's defense.

He never mentioned his own martial exploits, and one would hardly know he had ever been in the war, for anything they would hear from him.

After the war, he resumed his practice as doctor in Bryant's Pond, was elected to the Legislature in 1867, and in 1868 was appointed Trustee of the Maine Insane Hospital, serving six years. In 1872, he worked in the *Maine Farmer* as News Editor, and after six years in the position became Agricultural Editor. He served six years as one of the Examining Board of Invalid Pensioners, until he was deposed to give place to a friend of Mr. Blaine's. This was a position he was well calculated to fill and he felt the loss of it and the salary keenly.

Since then he has had to depend upon such work as he could get to do in the line of his favorite pursuit, History and Genealogy. He compiled the Bradbury, Clason, Knox, Ricker, and other genealogies, and wrote the History of Bethel, Paris, Norway, Woodstock, and Rumford, all large

(Continued on page 8)

Join the Bethel Historical Society, Western Maine's historical research center.

Membership in the Society entitles you to:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. free admission to the museum | 5. quarterly publication, <i>The Bethel Courier</i> |
| 2. special discounts in the museum store | 6. reduced course fees |
| 3. preferred rate for meeting room rental | 7. voting rights in the Society |
| 4. special library and archival privileges | 8. special invitations to Society events |

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(Obituary of William B. Lapham, continued from page 7)

and valuable works. His last printed book was *My Recollections of the Rebellion*. It was printed for his family and for private circulation.

During the year of his last sickness, he worked on the history of Kittery, what time he was able. This was intended for his crowning glory, and he was backed by Senator John Hill of Augusta, also a doctor and native of Kittery. With Hill's ample means, it would have doubtless been a work of which that historic old town and [the] state would have been proud. The disease [diabetes] which has terminated his valuable life, he never spoke of. But he had to work, and facing death with a greater heroism than it took to command at Fort Hell, he nobly toiled at his post till his active and faithful hand refused to work. For several months he was a great sufferer.

During his sickness, his son, who has a wife and one child at Loudon Hill, had a very severe typhoid fever, and his child had to be cared for at the home of his doctor, and for quite a long time his wife has been severely sick, thoroughly prostrated with her severe labors. His daughter, Mary, of feeble health, has by her strong will been able to keep about, and Fannie the youngest, has been severely taxed, but so far has stood up bravely.

The Doctor, feeling and seeing what a care and burden he was to his family, accepted the invitation that Gen. Stephenson gave him when he was first taken to make his home at Togus, and for several weeks has been there and has had every care and attention that Dr. Elwell and kind attendants could bestow.

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Deceased was a man of whom his state should be proud. He was a member of the Mass. Hist. Gen. Soc., of the Maine Hist. Soc. (and was one of its most valuable workers), of the Maine Genealogical Soc., of the Maine Press Association, who held him in the highest estimation, of the Grand Army, of the Sons of Revolution, of the Loyal Legion, and probably of other kindred Associations. He was a Universalist in belief.

All that loving hands could do to smooth his pillow was done, and many a friend will weep in loving sympathy for his fine family in their bereavement. He has not left a large amount of this world's goods, but they will be rich in that better legacy of the example of an honest life well spent.

He was married November 27th, 1867, to Cynthia A., sister of ex-Gov. Sidney Perham, and she and one son and two daughters survive him.

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